



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FROM THE ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE RIGHT-SIZING OF NC 221 BUSINESS FROM FOUR LANES TO THREE LANES

WHEREAS, the Ashe County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of transportation infrastructure that balances vehicular mobility, pedestrian safety, multimodal access, and community connectivity; and

WHEREAS, any substantial decision related to the reduction of NC 221 Business from four lanes to three lanes shall be made utilizing crash and fatality data, along with professionally prepared traffic studies and safety analyses; and

WHEREAS, this project has been formally identified in multiple adopted planning documents, including the 2008 Jefferson Pedestrian Plan, the 2010 West Jefferson Pedestrian Plan, the 2010 and 2022 Ashe County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, and the 2013 High Country Bike Plan; and

WHEREAS, this project was submitted for consideration within Ashe County's 2025 State Transportation Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements will assist citizens with limited means and abilities in accessing essential commercial hubs within the County, thereby supporting independence, mobility, and long-term self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, NC Highway 221 has recently completed its full four-lane expansion and serves as the primary vehicular route within Ashe County, significantly reducing the necessity of through-traffic and regional vehicle volumes on NC 221 Business; and

WHEREAS, the expectations associated with this corridor improvement include increasing existing commercial activity, supporting new commercial development, and strengthening tourism and other economic industries along the corridor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body hereby expresses its formal support for the reduction of NC 221 Business from four lanes to three lanes as a right-sizing transportation project intended to improve safety, accessibility, economic vitality, and quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this support is conditioned upon continued data-driven analysis, coordination with transportation agencies, and public engagement to ensure that the project advances community goals, public safety, and long-term economic development objectives.

Todd McNeil, Chairmen of County Commissioners _____

Missy Seivers, Clerk for the County Commissioners _____